

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 20, and 21 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 4.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 20, and 21 are amended to provide clarification. Specifically, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 20, and 21 have been amended to clarify the English translation and correct errors made in the translation process. Accordingly, no new subject matter has been added, as support for these amendments may be found, at least, in the Abstract, as well as the Specification as filed (paragraphs [0059] to [0064], [0068] to [0078], [0088], [0089], [0093], and [0094] and Figures 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, and 23).

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 532,953 ("Grimes") in view of U.S. Patent No 1,525,330 ("Smith"). To the extent this rejection applies to the claims as amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites an umbrella storage apparatus having an apparatus main body and a supporting member with a basal end part rotatably supported on the apparatus main body about

an axis normal to a longitudinal direction of the apparatus main body. The basal end part rotates between a use position, in which the supporting member extends in a direction substantially normal to the longitudinal direction of the apparatus main body, and a receipt position, in which the supporting member extends in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the apparatus main body. The apparatus further includes a plurality of umbrella retaining locks disposed, side by side, along at least one side part of the supporting member and adapted to retain a part-to-be-retained of an umbrella when the supporting member is in the use position. The apparatus yet further includes a cosmetic cover rotatable between an open position and a closed position. The cosmetic cover, when in the open position, allows the supporting member to rotate between the use position and the receipt position, and when in the closed position, covers the supporting member in the receipt position. When the supporting member is in the receipt position, at least one of the umbrella retaining locks attaches to the apparatus main body.

In Figures 1 and 2, Grimes shows an umbrella rack having a base **10** with a standard **12** projecting upward from the base **10**. A hub **13** is connected to the top of the standard **12**, and arms **14** radiate outward from the hub **13**. Clips **17** are attached to each side of each arm **14**, and these clips **17** may secure an umbrella therein.

Claim 1 requires a supporting member rotatable between a use position and a receipt position such that a cosmetic cover may cover the supporting member when the supporting member is in the receipt position. For example, as shown in Figure 1, the umbrella storage device **A** includes a supporting member **4** that rotates between a horizontal (use) position and a vertical (receipt) position. When the supporting member **4** is rotated downward into the receipt position, the cosmetic cover **2f** may be rotated from an open position into a closed position such that the cosmetic cover **2f** covers the entirety of the supporting member **4**.

In contrast, Grimes does not show or suggest a rotatable supporting member or a cosmetic cover. Rather, Grimes merely discloses an umbrella rack having arms that remain in a horizontal (use) position. The arms do not fold downward into a receipt position such that the arms can be enclosed within a cosmetic cover. Thus, Grimes does not show or suggest an umbrella storage device having a supporting member that rotates between a use position and a receipt position or a cosmetic cover that rotates from an open position to a closed position to cover the supporting member when the supporting member is in the receipt position, as required by claim 1.

Furthermore, Smith does not provide that which Grimes lacks. Smith shows a display case in Figure 1 that encloses the umbrella rack shown in Figure 2. The upper disk **12** of the umbrella rack is positioned on the top **5** of the base **1** of the display case such that the openings **18** in the upper disk **12** are positioned above the large circular opening **6** in the top **5** of the base **1** of the display case. Thus, Smith fails to show or suggest an umbrella storage device having a supporting member that rotates between a use position and a receipt position or a cosmetic cover that rotates from an open position to a closed position to cover the supporting member when the supporting member is in the receipt position, as required by claim 1.

In view of the above, Smith and Grimes, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in claim 1, as required to support a rejection under § 103. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Smith and Grimes. Claims that depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly, are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 12, and 13 is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 recites an umbrella storage apparatus having an apparatus main body and a plurality of supporting members with basal end parts supported on the apparatus main body

such that the supporting members extend in a direction substantially normal to the longitudinal direction of the apparatus main body. The apparatus further includes a plurality of umbrella retaining locks disposed, side by side, along at least one side part of the supporting members and adapted to retain a part-to-be-retained of an umbrella. A gap is formed between the mutually adjacent supporting members and extends in the longitudinal direction of the supporting members. The apparatus main body has a pair of opposing side parts.

As discussed above, claim 4 requires the supporting members to extend in a direction substantially normal to the longitudinal direction of the apparatus main body. Stated differently, the supporting members may be oriented in a direction normal to the longitudinal direction of the apparatus main body. For example, as shown in Figure 14, the umbrella storage device **B** has multiple supporting members **4** attached to a member **25** such that the supporting members **4** are parallel to one another in the horizontal direction which is normal to the vertical (longitudinal) direction of the apparatus main body **20**. In contrast, in Grimes, the umbrella rack has arms **14** that radiate outward from the hub **13** such that the arms **14** are arranged in a circular configuration. Thus, Grimes fails to show or suggest an umbrella storage device having supporting members parallel to one another in a direction normal to the longitudinal direction of the apparatus main body, as required by claim 4.

Furthermore, Smith does not provide that which Grimes lacks. In Figure 2, Smith shows an umbrella rack having a vertical shaft **10** secured to a base **8**. Three disks **12**, **13**, **14** are secured to the vertical shaft **10**. The upper disks **12**, **13** have a plurality of aligned openings **18** and the lower disk **14** has recesses **19** aligned with the openings **18** in the upper disks **12**, **13**. The three disks **12**, **13**, **14** are arranged along the vertical shaft **10** such that the disks **12**, **13**, **14** are parallel to one another in a direction *parallel* to the longitudinal direction of the body **1**, not

normal to the longitudinal direction of the body 1. Thus, Smith fails to show or suggest an umbrella storage device having supporting members parallel to one another in a direction *normal* to the longitudinal direction of the apparatus main body, as required by claim 4.

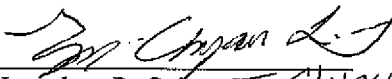
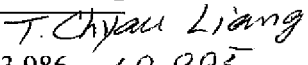
In view of the above, Smith and Grimes, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in claim 4, as required to support a rejection under § 103. Thus, claim 4 is patentable over Smith and Grimes. Claims that depend from claim 4, either directly or indirectly, are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 7, 8, 10, 20, and 21 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 12088/027001).

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